

THE CALIFORNIA SELF-DETERMINATION PILOT PROJECTS

The intent of self-determination is to facilitate consumer and family control of public funds such that they have the freedom to develop and purchase their own services.

BACKGROUND

In September 1998, Senate Bill 1038 (Thompson, Chapter 1043, Statutes of 1998), was signed, authorizing the planning and implementation of three Self-Determination Pilots Projects. In December 1998, the first planning meeting of the SD Steering Committee was held. The Steering Committee consists of: the three pilot regional centers and area boards, Kern Regional Center, Area Board XII, DDS staff, and representatives from The Organization of Area Boards, Association of Regional Center Agencies, and the Senate Select Committee on Developmental Disabilities. Consumers, families, advocates and service providers were consulted during the pilot's development and each of the SD pilots have established a local advisory committee. Senate Bill 1038 allocated \$750,000 for the implementation of these pilots. An additional \$500,000 was allocated in the Fiscal Year 1998-99. A longitudinal study of the effect of self-determination is under way. The contract for this evaluation was awarded to The Center of Outcome Analysis. Three regional centers in partnership with their area board are responsible for start up of the three pilots.

The Regional Centers Selected for the pilot projects by the State Legislature are:

Eastern Los Angeles Regional Center and Area Board X,

Tri-Counties Regional Center and Area Board IX

Redwood Coast Regional Center and Area Board I

Kern Regional Center and Area Board XII will be doing an independent SD pilot.

Kern Regional Center has been working in conjunction with DDS and the other pilot projects to develop a proposal.